

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 118820 TOSEC 010156

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO:WBBUFFUM:HS

APPROVED BY IO:WBBUFFUM

M:LSEAGLEBURGER

S/S:MR.MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118820 TOSEC 010156

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: SYG WALDHEIM CRITICISM OF MAYAGUEZ OPERATION

REF: SECTO 01063

1. TO PUT REUTERS STORY ON WALDHEIM'S INTERVIEW ON  
"WASHINGTON STRAIGHT TALK" IN PERSPECTIVE, I AM SENDING  
BELOW THE FULL TEXT OF ALL PORTIONS DEALING WITH MAYAGUEZ  
INCIDENT. YOU WILL NOTE THAT IN EACH INSTANCE HE IS  
RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS AND THAT MARILYN BERGER WAS PRESS-  
ING HIM TO MAKE SOME ADVERSE COMMENT ABOUT OUR ACTION.

BEGIN TEXT. BERGER: MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, LAST  
WEEK THE UNITED STATES CAME TO YOU AND ASKED FOR YOUR HELP  
IN THE PEACEFUL RELEASE OF THE SHIP THAT THE CAMBODIANS  
CAPTURED IN WHAT THE U.S. SAID WAS AN INTERNATIONAL SEA  
LANE. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU DID?

WALDHEIM: WELL, I RECEIVED THE AMERICAN REQUEST FOR  
HELP LAST WEDNESDAY AROUND 1:00 IN THE AFTERNOON, THAT WAS  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 118820 TOSEC 010156

AFTER THE HOSTILITIES HAD STARTED BETWEEN THE CAMBODIAN  
GUNBOATS AND THE U.S. AIR FORCE.

I DID SEND IMMEDIATELY AN APPEAL TO BOTH SIDES, TO

THE GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA AND TO THE UNITED STATES TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER ACTS OF FORCE AND TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM PEACEFULLY. AT THE SAME TIME, I OFFERED MY HELP AND MY GOOD OFFICES.

AS FOR THE REST, IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO COMMENT -- YOU KNOW THE SITUATION AND THEREFORE I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY....

BERGER: DID YOU RECEIVE ANY RESPONSE FROM THE CAMBODIANS, ANY INDICATION THAT THEY WERE READY TO GIVE UP THE SHIP BEFORE THE U.S. STARTED ITS SECOND MILITARY ACTION, WHICH WAS AFTER THE ONE WHERE THEY DOWNED A COUPLE OF PATROL BOATS?

WALDHEIM: AS I TOLD YOU, WHEN I MADE THE APPEAL, AFTER HAVING RECEIVED THE REQUEST FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE HOSTILITIES HAD STARTED ALREADY...

BERGER: DID YOU COMPLAIN TO THE U.S. ABOUT STARTING HOSTILITIES AT THE SAME TIME THEY WERE ASKING FOR UNITED NATIONS HELP?

WALDHEIM: WELL, THESE FACTS WERE WELL KNOWN. I WAS IN CONTACT, OF COURSE, WITH THE MISSION HERE, WITH AMBASSADOR SCALI, BUT I THINK THE FACTS ARE SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES.

BERGER: DOES THE FACT THAT THE U.S. INITIATED MILITARY ACTION AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT ASKED FOR HELP FROM YOU, INDICATE A LACK OF FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ACT?

WALDHEIM: I WOULDN'T SAY SO. BUT IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE CHANCES FOR OUR INTERVENTION TO SUCCEED WERE RATHER SLIM, SINCE THIS REQUEST WAS MADE RATHER LATE AND THE HOSTILITIES HAD STARTED ALREADY. IT'S ALWAYS MUCH CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 118820 TOSEC 010156

MORE DIFFICULT TO STOP HOSTILITIES THAN TO AVOID THEM.

BERGER: WELL, IN YOUR DIPLOMATIC WAY ARE YOU SAYING THE U.S. DID NOT GIVE YOU SUFFICIENT TIME TO ACT?

WALDHEIM: WELL, I TOLD YOU, I WAS ASKED AROUND 1:00 AND THAT WAS ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER THE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE GUNBOATS AND THE U.S. AIR FORCE, AND A FEW HOURS LATER THE MAJOR MILITARY OPERATION STARTED.

BERGER: SO WHY DID THE U.S. BOTHER TO COME TO YOU AT ALL?

WALDHEIM: WELL, IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO COMMENT ON THIS. I...IN THE SAME REQUEST, AS YOU KNOW, THE LETTER WAS PUBLISHED, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO REFERRED TO ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN REGARDS TO SELF-DEFENSE.

BERGER: DO YOU SEE THAT ACTION AS A PROTECTION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS?

WALDHEIM: WELL, THERE ARE DIFFERENT VIEWS, AS YOU KNOW, THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES ARE SAYING THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIAL BORDERS, WHEREAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SAYS THIS WAS OUTSIDE THE CAMBODIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

AND I THINK THIS IS THE BASIS FOR THE CONFLICT, THAT THW TWO SIDES HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE PLACE WHERE THIS INCIDENT HAPPENED. END TEXT.

2. IN LIGHT OF OBVIOUS PRESSURE SYG WAS UNDER FROM BERGER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR HIS INTENTION WAS TO MAKE AN OFFENSIVE STATEMENT REGARDING THE TIMING OF AIR STRIKES AND OUR APPROACH TO UN. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER YOU STILL WISH A PROTEST DELIVERED TO WALDHEIM. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS, PRESS CONFERENCES, SHIP DETENTION, TOSEC 10156  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE118820  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IO:WBBUFFUM:HS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750178-0808  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197505103/baaaakil.tel  
**Line Count:** 135  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971015  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** EWWT, MOPS, PFOR, CB, UN, US, (WALDHEIM, KURT)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006